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SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON THE CHAVAN VISIT

BEGIN SUMMARY: ALL NEW DELHI ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS CARRIED EDITORIAL COMMENT ON INDO-U.S. RELATIONS. MOST OF THE COMMENT WAS FAVORABLE. SPECTRUM OF WIDE-RANGING OPINION VARIED FROM COMPLETE EUPHORIA TO CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM AND DISAPPROVAL, FROM SCEPTICISM TO A PLEAS FOR IMPROVING MUTUAL TIES. MEDIA CONTINUED TO GIVE FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT TO THE WORKING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION, HIGHLIGHTING THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND CHAVAN'S STATEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. HINDUSTAN TIMES: CHARACTERIZED THE WASHINGTON TALKS AS "CONSTRUCTIVE," MARKING THE "BEGINNING OF A HEARTENING NEW PHASE" AND "A NEW SPIRIT OF BONHOMIE." STRESSING THAT "EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GENIAL RELATIONS ARE THE CONCRETE RESULTS ACHIEVED," IT URGED BOTH COUNTRIES "MUST NOW ENSURE THAT UNTHINKING PIN-PRICKS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PREVENT BUILDING UPON THE NEW FOUNDATION OF TRUST AND ACCOMMODATION."

2. TIMES OF INDIA: WELCOMED GOI'S "NEW ... AND HARD-HEADED REALISM," AND HOPED THAT BOTH THE COUNTRIES WILL "MAINTAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE AND AVOID FRUITLESS RECRIMINATIONS."

IT ADDED THAT "WHILE THE AGREEMENTS ARE WELCOME, IT IS NECESSARY TO TAKE A CAUTIOUS VIEW OF THE POSSIBILITIES." REASON: "IT WILL BE UNREALISTIC TO HAIL THESE AS A TURNING POINT IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS."

3. STATESMAN: PLEADED TO FORGET AMERICAN LEADERS' "TACTLESS REFERENCE," "INTEMPERATE REMARKS," AND "GESTURES OF DISAPPROVAL" TO INDIAN CONDITIONS AND "LOOK BEYOND TO AREAS OF COMMON POLITICAL INTEREST AND LIKELY COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES." IT UNDERScoreD THAT "STABLE" RELATIONSHIP IS FOUNDED "ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION TEMPERED WITH A HEALTHY RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S POINT OF VIEW," AND CONCLUDED: "FLUCTUATIONS IN CORDIALITY ARE MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO MINOR IRRITANTS WHICH SHOULD BE IGNORED BY BOTH NEW DELHI AND WASHINGTON IF MR. CHAVAN'S INITIATIVE IS EXPECTED TO YIELD LONG-TERM DIVIDENDS."

4. INDIAN EXPRESS: EMPHASIZED THAT THE "SIGNIFICANCE" OF THE WASHINGTON TALKS LIES IN "THE STEPS AGREED UPON TO FACILITATE U.S. PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN INDIA AND TO PROMOTE INDO-U.S. BUSINESS COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION." IT, HOWEVER, CAUTIONED THAT THE "NEW SURGE" WILL NOT AMOUNT TO A "MAD RUSH" OF AMERICAN CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY BECAUSE "FOREIGN PRIVATE CAPITAL IS TIGHT-FISTED AND WILL NOT GO BY ANY OTHER CRITERIA EXCEPT PROFITABILITY."

5. FINANCIAL EXPRESS: VIEWED THE CHAVAN VISIT AS "EMINENTLY SUCCESSFUL," AND FELT "THE WAY IS NOW CLEAR" FOR PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO INDIA. IT STRESSED THAT THE ROLE OF BOTH INDIA AND THE U.S. "IN THE QUEST OF GLOBAL SOLUTIONS" CAN BE A "POWERFUL FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF WIDELY ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISES."

6. ECONOMIC TIMES: HIGHLIGHTED TWO POINTS: (A) THE IMPROVEMENT OF "ATMOSPHERICS ON THE POTOMAC", AND (B) THE SCOPE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS "LIES PRIMARILY IN NON-POLITICAL AREAS ... IN SEVERAL MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS SECTORS." BUT "ALL SUCH COOPERATION WILL BE FEASIBLE ONLY IN THE OVERALL FRAMEWORK OF UNDERSTANDING AND MUTUALITY OF BENEFITS."

7. NATIONAL HERALD: PRAISED CHAVAN FOR HIS "RARE TACT AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PATIENCE IN RESCUING INDO-U.S. RELATIONS FROM DISASTER," AND PRESIDENT FORD'S COMMENT THAT HE MEANT "NO OFFENSE" TO INDIA IN HIS RECENT STATEMENT. IT THEN REMARKED THAT DR. KISSINGER "DOES NOT COME OUT SO WELL FROM THE SORRY CHAPTER OF INDO-U.S. TIES." IT HELD THAT THE SECRETARY "BELIEVES IN A CONFRONTATION AT THE SLIGHTEST PROVOCATION. OTHERWISE, MR. MOYNIHAN WOULD NOT BE GOING ABOUT THE U.N. AND OTHER FORUMS BEHAVING LIKE A BULL IN A CHINA SHOP." IN FURTHER

COMMENT, IT OPINED THAT "AS THE TWO NATIONS ENTER ON THE NEW ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP ... THOSE ANXIOUS TO SEE THEM DRAW NEARER WILL KEEP THEIR FINGERS CROSSED." IT CONCLUDED BY ASSERTING THAT AMERICA "NEEDS TO LIVE DOWN VIETNAM AND NOT TO SEE THE PAKISTANI CONNECTION AS TRANSCENDING THE OVERALL SOUTH ASIAN CONTEXT."

8. PATRIOT: ENDING ITS HOLIDAY ON CRITICISM OF THE U.S. ROLE IN INDIA WAS CRITICAL OF BOTH WASHINGTON AND GOI. IT WARNED THAT "THE GREATEST OVERT ACHIEVEMENT" OF THE JOINT COMMISSION WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL. COMMENTING ON "MORE THAN TWENTY PROJECTS" APPROVED BY BOTH THE GOVERNMENTS, IT ASKED: "WHAT ARE THESE PROJECTS? AND APART FROM TRYING TO RELEASE POISONOUS MOSQUITOES AND OTHER SUCH TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS IN THE INDIAN ENVIRONMENT, IN WHAT FIELDS HAVE THERE BEEN INDO-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGICAL 'COOPERATION.'" IT SARCASTICALLY COMMENTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S RECENT REMARKS "ARE GREAT VICTORIES OF WHICH ANY CERTIFICATE-HUNTING INDIAN DELEGATION CAN BE IMMENSELY PROUD," ADDING: "WE SHALL NOW WAIT ANXIOUSLY FOR THE NEXT RUSH OF CIA AGENTS MADE UP TO LOOK LIKE EDUCATIONISTS, SCIENTISTS ETC."

9. NEW COVERAGE OF JOINT COMMISSION: NEWSPAPERS PROMINENTLY PLAYED UP THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, HIGHLIGHTING UPSWING IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS ("INDO-U.S. ACCORD ON MANY AREAS OF COOPERATION" WAS A TYPICAL HEADLINE IN THE TIMES OF INDIA) AND CHAVAN'S STATEMENT SUMMING UP HIS TALKS, "THEY (U.S.) NEED US AND WE NEED THEM."

10. COMMENT: MEDIA HAS COVERED THE CHAVAN DISCUSSIONS AND THE JOINT COMMISSION OUTCOME AS A MAJOR EVENT, GIVING IT WIDESPREAD NEWS AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE.

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